

The Government Finance Officers Association of SC Newsletter

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2007 GFOASC Fall Conference

Viola R. Faust, Chair



The 23rd Annual GFOASC Fall Conference was held on October 14 -17, 2007 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. The theme was "A Call to Serve". This year's conference was well attended with 260 attendees. We had a record number of vendors. Vendor participation increased by 46% and our vendor income increased by 60%. The conference was extremely profitable this year with a profit in excess of \$ 10,000.00.

Many new and refreshing topics were presented this year. The conference began on a high note and ended on the same high note. Ken Rust, President-Elect of National GFOA joined us this year as a General Session speaker. Another change for the conference this year was the layout of the vendor hall. The vendors loved the new layout as well the attendees. Overall the conference was a "Great" success.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our speakers and vendors, who without their support, we would not have been able to provide a rewarding and educational conference.

A special thank you is extended to the State Employee's Association who returned as a vendor this year. They were not properly acknowledged. We thank them for their support.

Last but not least a big thank you to the Fall Conference committee who worked very hard to give you an excellent 2007 Conference.

Make your plans to attend the 2008 Conference in Myrtle Beach on October 12-15th. We hope to see you there.

Viola R. Faust
President-Elect

Program Committee

Frances Derrick, Chair

It has been a privilege serving as the chair of the Program Committee this past year. The speakers who gave generously of their time to our organization were Brandolyn Pinkston of Consumer Fraud, Jim Bryant of CIO, Chris Cowan of Crimestoppers and Cindy Coker, Attorney at Law, speaking on a variety of topics and issues. The luncheons were held at Grecian Gardens and Brookland Convention Center and were well-attended.

Any suggestions for future speakers or locations, please contact WordLee; and the information will be forwarded to the newly appointed Program Committee Chair for next year.

Have a great holiday season.

Frances Derrick, Program Chair



Providing up-to-date
information and news
affecting the government
finance officer profession
in South Carolina.

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Visit our Web Site Often!

Let us know what you
think—this is your tool!
www.gfoasc.com

From Your President ~ Carol Martin

Hi GFOASC Members,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Fall Conference in October. I hope that there was a lot of informative material that you took back to the workplace. I would like to thank all of our vendors who made this conference such a success. We could not have done it without all of you! I also want to thank our President-Elect, Viola Faust, and her Fall Conference Committee for putting on another good conference.

We are pleased to report that the online voting issues that were discussed at the Fall Conference business meeting have been reviewed and determined to have proper safeguards in place. Memberclicks has verified the balloting process. We will continue to monitor the process and want to express our thanks to those that responded to the

on line polls! We have entered the “electronic age”!

I have really enjoyed being your President this year. I thank all of you who voted for me and gave me the opportunity to lead this fine organization. I will continue to do everything I can for all of you and GFOASC!

Sincerely,
Carol Martin
President of GFOASC



Treasurer's Report

Terry Booth, CPA, CGFO ~ GFOASC Treasurer

The Association's finances are in great shape again, and we are anticipating a healthy surplus at the end of the year. I believe that this year's surplus will come close to offsetting the deficits we experienced over the past two years. Currently, the fall conference numbers are preliminary, but it looks like we will have a net income of around \$15,000, which will contribute significantly to our overall surplus.



Please don't forget that the treasurer reports are posted monthly to the website under the Treasurer Report link. Take a look at the “Profit and Loss by Fund” for a quick overview.

I have enjoyed serving as your Treasurer over the past two years, and I want to thank you for giving me that opportunity. I am sure that Donna Sullivan will do an excellent job and I will work with her to ensure she can “hit the ground running.” I really hope the Association will continue to grow in membership, program offerings, and technology, so that we can all get the most out of our memberships. Thanks!

Certification Committee Update

Cheryl Allen-Lint, CGFO ~ Certification Committee Chair

Congratulations to the new Certified Government Finance Officers:

Crystal Burr
Christopher Canaday
Tonya Crosby
Dolores Dong
Tiffany Frye
Pamela Jennings
Sally Lowery
Beverly Mozie
Heather Price

when you send it in, so that we can update your file. The reports are due by February 29, 2008.

Beginning in 2007 (reported in February 2008), software training is limited to four (4) hours per year, may not be carried forward, and must be reported as “other”—unless recognized as allowable CPE for Accounting & Auditing by state or national standards (ex: SC Board of Accountancy or AICPA). The Committee would like to offer the following reminders to all CGFOs: The updated CGFO program guidelines are on the website under the Certification link. (See pages 11-16 in particular)

The GFOASC awarded the 2007 certifications at its annual fall conference banquet held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on October 16, 2007. Crystal Burr received special recognition for having the highest score on the certification exams. To hold certification as a CGFO in the State of South Carolina is a tremendous accomplishment and only achieved after many long hours of study and experience as a governmental accounting practitioner.

Changes to Certification Program

The GFOASC Board will vote in December on a recommendation from the Certification Committee to change the number of exams offered from three to five. If approved, beginning in November 2008, those who complete the certification courses will take one exam for each course. The time limit will not change—candidates must pass all exams within three (3) calendar years (6 exam cycles) of taking the first course.

2007 CPE reports

The 2007 CPE reporting forms were mailed out last month, and are also available on the GFOASC website under the Certification link. If any of your contact information has changed, please make the corrections on your CPE form

Each CGFO (except for those newly certified in 2007) is required to report at least 20 hours of CPE.

- At least four (4) hours must be reported in the “accounting/budgeting” category. These hours cannot be carried forward from the prior year
- No more than four (4) hours of personal development can be reported (and cannot be carried forward)
- Up to ten (10) hours can be carried forward from the prior and to the next year (in the “other” category)

Please include your email address on the report form so that we can have your most current email—this is the quickest and easiest way to contact you. You must be a current member of GFOASC to remain certified, even if you have an approved waiver of CPE. Be sure and send backup with your CPE report, so that we don't have to request it if you are selected for audit. If you use the CPA form to report your hours, be sure and note which hours are in the “accounting/budgeting” category.

Please email me at gfoasc@yahoo.com if you have any questions or concerns about the certification program.



2006 Scholarships Offered by GFOASC!

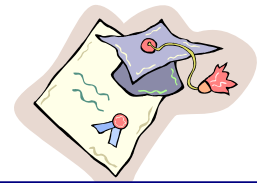
Stacey Hamm ~ Scholarship Committee Chair

The Katherine Zook Certification Program Scholarship for 2007 was awarded to Sarah Sullivan, Chief Financial Officer for the Richland County Public Library. Sarah is a graduate of the University of South Carolina – Aiken with a B.S. in Accounting. The Scholarship Committee congratulates Sarah and wishes her well.

The Scholarship Committee congratulates Shawndell and wishes her well.

The Founding Fathers Two Year College Student Scholarship for 2007 was awarded to Ms. Shawndell Filbert of Lexington. Ms. Filbert is currently attending Midland Technical College majoring in Accounting.

A special thank you goes out to the Scholarship Committee Members Kevin Yokim, Vicki Bowles, Jennifer LoPresti and Sabrina Brown.



GFOA National Update

Marcia L. Medway, M.A.—State Representative to GFOA National



Membership in the National GFOA is a valuable tool to assist you to perform at your best. Among the many membership benefits is a monthly newsletter filled with important Government and Government Finance announcements. The following is reprinted with permission from a recent GFOA national newsletter.

New Center to Help Governments Attract and Retain Talent

State and local governments are facing the largest exodus of talent and skills ever with the impending retirement of the baby boomers.

If governments are to attract and retain skilled, innovative, and committed employees, governments must be able to go head-to-head with the private sector in the employment marketplace.

The new Center for State and Local Government Excellence is partnering with leading universities and researchers to analyze trends and develop practical materials that will provide government leaders, elected officials, and policy makers the tools and data they need to make public service an attractive career choice.

Equally important, the center seeks to raise public awareness of the opportunities to make a difference to society by working in state and local government. The center's initial research focuses on post-employment and retiree benefits. Its first grants went to the Center for Retirement Research (CRR) at Boston College to establish a data clearinghouse on state and local pension plans, and to North Carolina State University to assess the status of state and local government health care benefits, alternative plans, and costs and estimated future liabilities.

The center is accepting proposals for research grants to study the structure of state and local government retirement plans, post employment and retiree health care benefits, financial wellness, and retirement planning.

To learn more about the center's work, visit www.slge.org.

Membership Committee Update

Terry L. Booth, CPA, CGFO ~ Membership Committee Chair

The Membership Committee has worked hard this year to increase membership and to ensure that all dues were paid. Below is a comparison of 2006 and 2007 membership numbers:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Increase/(Decrease)</u>	
			<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
Regular Individual Members	659	579	80	13.8%
Retired and honorary members	13	13	-	-
Associate members	22	18	4	22.2%
Individual agency & associate sustaining members	122	120	2	1.7%
Total Individuals	816	730	86	11.8%
Agency	2	2	-	-
Associate sustaining	2	2	-	-

Individual memberships categorized by type of agency are:

Associate	29	25	4	16.0%
City	80	71	9	12.7%
College & University	122	110	12	10.9%
County	131	110	21	19.1%
Retired	12	12	-	-
School Districts	37	31	6	19.4%
Special Districts	42	33	9	27.3%
State	363	338	25	7.4%
Total	816	730	86	11.8%

I want to thank all of the membership committee members for their help in growing the Association this year. If you would like to be a part of the membership committee next year, please contact us at gfoasc@yahoo.com.

The membership renewals were sent out in December. You should have received an email notifying you that they have been sent out, and then the forms were mailed to the address we have on file for you. Please email me or update Memberclicks if you need to make any changes to your contact information. Thank you for your support over the past two years!

Election of Officers

Please welcome the
Newest Board Members
Elected in October!

Scott Ludlam, CGFO
President-Elect

Donna Sullivan, CGFO
Treasurer

Linda Murphy
Secretary

Jan Alonso, CGFO
Director

Judy Hrinda
Director

Visit the Web site for the full list of
2008 Board Members!

Visit Often and Participate in the Online Polls!

Be sure to visit the Web site often! We are working on new polls so that you are able to voice your opinion on issues and ideas that affect the government finance officer profession in South Carolina. Look for the new poll about distance learning for Certification!

We also have the Bulletin Board up and running. If you have information you want to share or issues you need help with post them there and your peers throughout the State can network with you to solve problems and share information. Please be sure we have a current email address for you!

Visit often at www.gfoasc.com!

GFOASC Now Accepts PayPal

GFOASC can now accept Credit cards through Paypal online for registration fees and membership renewals. We will be in the process of updating the Web site and making even more items functional in the Memberclicks section. Please visit often as there will be many changes as we go through this process. Just look for the PayPal logo on the pages as they are made accessible to receive payment. We can also send invoices that are payable through Paypal at any time upon request.

As always, please do let us know if you experience any problems or have concerns about the site.



Government Finance Officers Association of SC

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GFOASC 2008 Conference Dates

May 5, 2008
Spring Conference
Radisson Hotel—Columbia, SC

October 12-15, 2008
Myrtle Beach Convention Center &
Sheraton Hotel

We Wish You
Happy Holidays
and a
Joyous &
Peaceful New Year!